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Golden Gate Audubon Society

CALIFORNIA  
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## THE GULL



## AFRICA REVISITED

Watching a leopard stalk and kill an impalla in broad daylight from only 30 feet away. Seeing a huge flock of flamingos panic into flight as a Lanner Falcon dives just above their heads. Peering through the leaves at two beautifully plumaged Turacos just overhead.

These are among the memories from a birding tour to Kenya this past October and November led by George Peyton, loyal GGAS supporter and former board member of NAS. After an eleven year absence, George returned for the third time to Kenya to find the same incredible numbers of birds and mammals as before. Traveling through many different habitats, his group saw well over 400 species of birds.

George will be sharing many of the highlights of his birding safari in a vivid slide presentation at our monthly meeting on **Thursday, February 13 at 7:30** at Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Mark the date on your calendars and join us for a lively evening.

— TOM WHITE, Program Committee

## ON THE DEATH OF THE CONDOR

In late December the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) struck what may be the death knell of the California Condor. The service has decided to capture all of the Condors remaining at large and not to purchase the Hudson Ranch in Kern Co. The ranch (15,000 acres) is the one location known to be a feeding ground for all the Condors. Because many of the most recent Condor deaths have resulted from lead poisoning from carrion killed by gunshots and/or coyote poisoning, the ability to manage these dangers would be critical. Congress has appropriated the money for this purchase. Why FWS refused to complete the purchase is a mystery. In any case, with all the world Condors captured there will be no impetus to acquire Condor habitat. The inevitable result of these decisions is that **there will never again be California Condors, except in zoos.** These birds often fly 200 to 300 miles a day when at large. To deprive them of this, to eternally cage them is the height of insolence and inhumanity.

Upon hearing of this the National Audubon Society held late night meetings with FWS in an attempt to change the decision. FWS instead reiterated it and made it clear that they intend not to release any captive birds and not to purchase the land.

We are proud that National Audubon has sought a court order to stop the capture of the remaining Condors and require the purchase of the Ranch. It, of course, means there will be the expense of a lawsuit for which funds will be needed. If you are as concerned and outraged as I am, you can contribute to the Condor Legal Fund. Send your check to GGAS, 1550 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709.

— ARTHUR FEINSTEIN, President

## HIGHLIGHTS OF CBC 1985

One-hundred and sixty-seven hardy bird-watchers spread out over the East Bay Area on December 22, 1985, searching bay and shoreline, marshes, oak woodland and many other habitats for BIRDS. No rain hindered the count, although wind on the ridges, frost in the canyons, and fog in the interior presented problems for some people.

This year 177 species and 111,254 individuals were seen. New birds for count day were Sandhill Crane and American Black Oystercatcher. Additional birds adding excitement to the day were Blue-winged Teal, Oldsquaw, Peregrine Falcon, Lesser Yellowlegs, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Hermit Warbler.

A complete report of both Oakland & San Francisco Counts will be published next issue.

## VOLUNTEERS

Like so many Audubon activities the bird seed sale depends on volunteers. Please help. Call the GGAS office, 843-2222. Help is needed in both Berkeley and San Francisco on Saturday, March 15.

## FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

**Sunday, February 2 — Bay Park Refuge, Oakland.** See January *Gull* for details.

**Sunday, February 9 — Chain of Lakes, Golden Gate Park.** See January *Gull* for details.

**Wednesday, February 12 — Mini-trip to Lafayette Reservoir.** Meet at 9 a.m. Take Hwy. 24 to the Acalanes off-ramp, follow the sign on the right to the reservoir. There is a \$1 fee for day parking. We will see song and winter birds. Lunch optional. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Delpha de Timofeev and Ruth Voss (525-8032).

**Sunday, February 16 — Lake Merritt.** Meet at 8 a.m. at Grand Ave. and El Embarcadero by the Greek Colonnade. Trip ends at noon. Bring binoculars, field guide and scope if you have them. This is an excellent opportunity to observe wintering ducks and grebes at close range and to study their field identification. This trip is recommended for beginners. This trip is wheelchair accessible. Leader: Joan Zawaski (433-1700 days, 530-2427 eve).

**Saturday, February 22 — Lake Merced, San Francisco.** Meet at 9 a.m. at the south end of Sunset Blvd. in the Lake Merced Circle. This is a good time to see wintering grebes and ducks. If you take the #72 bus be sure to get off at Ocean Ave. because the next stop is Winston Dr., about one-half mile away. Lunch is optional for this half-day trip. Leader: Aileen Pierson (587-4163).

**Sunday, February 23 — San Mateo Coast.** Meet at Pescadero Beach parking lot at the intersection of Hwy. 1 and Pescadero Rd. at 8 a.m. Please carpool to this point if possible; parking is very limited and there is a fee. Bring lunch and clothes suitable for cold, wet and

windy weather. We will look for wintering waterfowl and shorebirds. Leader: Jon Zablackis (643-6704 days, 235-9150 eve). (✓)

**Saturday, March 1 — San Pablo and Briones Reservoirs.** Meet at 9 a.m. at the intersection of San Pablo Dam Rd. and Bear Creek Road. From Berkeley take Wildcat Canyon Rd. to its end (the meeting site). From Hwy. 24 take the Orinda exit and go left on Camino Pablo to its end (the meeting site). We will hike about one mile along a part of Oursan Trail and then caravan to Briones Reservoir. Birding will be in grasslands, pine and oak woodlands and streamside willows. Bring lunch, liquids and a scope if you have one. Leaders: Sue and Bob Watson (254-4077). (✓)

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 236-7022 and leave a message. She will contact you.

Problems: if for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

— FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

**Correction:** November Observations' report of "substantial flocks of enough" was astonishing (p.3). It would have been less so if two lines of type had not been lost. The paragraph would have then read:

"The most astounding discovery at Cordell Banks was the unprecedented presence of substantial flocks of Wilson's Storm-Petrels. Seven on Nov. 3 (RS, PA) were startling enough."

## DECEMBER OBSERVATIONS— Throug December 31

Continued cold assured that lingering insectivores were scarce. Central Valley water birds appeared along the coast in greater numbers than usual.

### LOON TO IBIS

A Yellow-billed Loon at the Moss Landing alpha buoy highlighted the Monterey Bay Pelagic Christmas Bird Count (hereafter, CBC) Dec. 30 (SFB, SJ, et al.). Mountain View's Red-necked Grebe lingered well into December (DS, et al.).

Experienced fishing boat skippers had a Laysan Albatross two miles off Pt. Lobos Dec. 29 (fide DLS). For the second year in a row the Monterey CBC recorded a Flesh-footed Shearwater as one of five shearwater species Dec. 30 (AB, SJ, et al.). This count also included 19 Black-vented Shearwaters (SJ, et al.). There had been 45 Black-vented on Dec. 1 (AB, SJ, et al.).

Cattle Egrets were far fewer than last year, with only 17 individuals reported from five locations (mob). Single sightings of White-faced Ibis away from the Central Valley came from Pescadero Marsh Dec. 14 (BS) and near Half Moon Bay Dec. 28 (DW).

### WATERFOWL

Tundra swans and all interior geese species occurred widely in our coastal region (mob). The very rare **dark morph** of Ross' Goose was seen at Merced National Wildlife Refuge Dec. 13 (BR). Two Eurasian/Aleutian Green-winged Teals were noted, one at Arrowhead Marsh in Oakland Dec. 13 (JM, mob) and the other at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin Dec. 22 (CB). At least four Eurasian Wigeons at Arrowhead Marsh Dec. 13 (JM, SFB,

mob) was a rather high count. South of their usual Sonoma County haunts, single Harlequin Ducks appeared at Tomales Bay Dec. 21 (BB, et al.) and at Pacific Grove Dec 27, and the one at Rodeo Lagoon stayed throughout the month (mob). Six Oldsquaws were reported from four places (mob).

## HAWK TO SHOREBIRDS

Unlike some previous Broad-winged Hawks, one at Inverness Park Nov. 28 to Dec. 4 (SP, RS, et al.) apparently did not linger until the CBC. The CBCs did note a small coastward irruption of Sandhill Cranes. A flock was near Mt. Diablo Dec. 21, a single flew east over Tilden Park the next day (JMi, DC, TLC), and one was on the Crystal Springs Reservoir CBC Dec. 28. Another Central Valley species, Mountain Plover, donated two individuals to our coast: Sharp Park Beach in Pacifica Dec 1-7 (PM, TK) and the Point Reyes RCA Station Dec. 21-22 (RS, et al.).

American Black Oystercatchers continue to pioneer the East Bay. Four were at the Albany Landfill Dec. 11 (DSa) and one was there Dec. 22 (JM, et al.). One flew past the Berkeley Pier Dec. 13 (JG). A Rock Sandpiper was found back at the traditional site on the west jetty of Princeton Harbor Nov. 30 and throughout December. Two were there Dec. 3 (PM).

## LARIDS TO ALCID

A Parasitic Jaeger at Charleston Slough and vicinity Dec. 14-18 (WGB, DS) was late for inside the Bay. The Little Gull and Common Black-headed Gull at Stockton Sewage Ponds were both seen Dec 15 and 23 (JM, et al., DY). First winter Glaucous Gulls at Mountain View Nov. 27, Dec. 14 and 15-18 apparently represented at least two different birds (all DS). Another

visited the Yolo County dump near Davis Dec. 29 (EH). Two Caspian Terns at the Moss Landing salt ponds Dec. 25 (fide MBRBA) were quite rare in the winter. Also unexpected so late was the Xantus' Murrelet in outer Monterey Bay Dec. 30 (AB, SFB, SJ, et al.).

## WOODPECKERS TO SHRIKE

An **adult** female **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was reported in Mill Valley Dec. 28 (AS). This eastern form and the Red-naped Sapsucker from the Rocky Mountains are now considered separate species. The Red-naped near Gray Lodge was still present Dec. 15 (SF), and three others were reported: at Black Diamond Mines Regional Park Dec. 6 (GF), in Stinson Gulch Dec. 28 (JW), and at the Santa Clara Cemetery Dec. 29.

The **Least Flycatcher** along Walker Creek near Tomales Dec. 21 (PP, LA) was seasonally unprecedented, although this species has wintered in Southern California. The only Townsend's Solitaire report came from Black Diamond Mines Dec. 15 (SF). Modesto's Tuolumne River Regional Park hosted a Brown Thrasher at least Nov. 24-Dec. 1 (HR, EC). Even rarer was the **Bendire's Thrasher** Dec. 21-28 (TM, DY, et al.). Immature Northern Shrikes were found on consecutive days (both EH), at Nimbus Fish Hatchery Dec. 28 and near Yolo County dump Dec. 29.

## EASTERN WARBLERS

A lingering Tennessee Warbler was at Bodega Bay Dec. 23 (JE), and two more were in Orange Memorial Park in South San Francisco Dec. 30 (RS, DB). Exceptionally late were the Chestnut-sided Warbler at Tuolumne River Regional Park in Modesto Dec. 8 (EC), the Magnolia Warbler at Inverness Dec. 2 (RS), and the Prairie Warbler at



Neary's Lagoon in Santa Cruz Co. Dec. 14-28 (BLaB, JP, et al.). The only two Palm Warblers were found at Palo Alto Dec. 11-18 (DS) and Bodega Bay Dec. 23 (JE). A Black-and-white Warbler tarried in Inverness Park Dec. 2-4 (AQ fide GF).

## TANAGER TO ORIOLE

A Summer Tanager at the south end of Lake Merced Dec. 30 (PM) upheld San Francisco record of hosting wintering individuals of this species. A Rose breasted Grosbeak visited a feeder in Foster City at least to the beginning of December (fide PM). Single Indigo Buntings were along Pilarcitos Creek, San Mateo Co., Dec. 28 (PM, RT) and at Inverness Dec. 20-21 (RS, et al.). All *Passerina* buntings are very rare in winter, Indigo has been found the most often.

Very few of our vagrant Black-throated Sparrows have been in winter, but one was along Altamont Pass Rd., Alameda Co. Dec. 15 (DC, JMi). The Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Pine Gulch Creek remained throughout the month (ML, RS, et al.). Palo Alto Baylands, another traditional wintering site, had a Sharp-tailed Sparrow at least Nov. 28-Dec. 11 (AH, et al.). There were two Swamp Sparrows at Shields Salt Marsh Dec. 8 (ML) and three in Olema Marsh Dec. 21 (RS). Another Swamp Sparrow was along the Salinas River at Davis Rd. Dec. 20 (fide MBRBA). Rarer was the Harris' Sparrow at Pine Gulch Creek Dec. 25-28 (JP, RS, et al.). The four Lapland Longspurs remained at Hayward Shoreline at least to Dec. 22 (BR, JR, et al.). Seven Lapland Longspurs were found in Menlo Park Bayfront Park Dec. 18 (DS), and four were resighted Dec. 31 (JMS, et al.).

Both Rusty Blackbirds were watched along Cloverdale Rd. through Nov. 30, but only one was seen thereafter to

Dec. 15 (WGB, et al.). San Francisco's resident Great-tailed Grackle was counted on the CBD Dec. 30, as were the two Northern Orioles in the Presidio (all RH).

**Observers:** Laura Arno, Stephen F. Bailey, Alan Baldridge, Dennis Beall, Chris Benesh, Bob Boekelheide, William G. Bousman, Eric Caine, Terry L. Coddington, Tom Cooper, Deborah Cotter, Jules Evens, Gary Fellers (GF), George Finger (GF), Shawneen Finnigan, Jeff Greenhouse, Ed Harper, Robert Hogan, Alan Hopkins, Shearwater Journeys, Ted Koundakjian, Bruce LaBar, Mike Lippsmeyer, Tim Manolis, many observers (mob), Peter Metropulos, Jim Mintun (JMi), Joseph Morlan (JM), John Parmeter, Susan Peasley, Peter Pyle, Armondo Quintero Harold Reeve, Bob Richmond, Jean Richmond, Ann Sands, Dale Santos (DSa), Barbara Scharfensstein, Debra Love Shearwater, Jean Marie Spoelman, Rich Stallcup, David Suddjian, Ron Thorn, Dorothy Tobkin, Jim Wiegand, David Wimpfheimer, David Yee.

— STEPHEN F. BAILEY  
Observations Editor

Dept. of Ornithology and Mammalogy  
California Academy of Sciences  
Golden Gate Park,  
San Francisco, CA 94118  
(report observations to Northern  
California Rare Bird Alert  
843-2211.)



## CONSERVATION NOTES

### PAUL COVEL WRITES:

A new year brings new threats and the need for new solutions in the struggle to save our environment from expanding freeways. A proposal to bridge San Leandro Bay — our largest body of open water east of San Francisco Bay — whose marshes within fifty years have shrunk from 22,000 to 7,000 acres — proves that we are sinking in a morass of mushrooming vehicular lanes and exchanges and lack the political leadership to save us from this all-consuming monster, the motor vehicle. I have read and viewed and sat with our transportation planners and come away appalled and dejected. The emphasis is always on how to provide more traffic lanes. One plan does mention "hovercraft or SES", the latter a water-skimming launch service, between Alameda and San Francisco. This is a token solution, where mass water transportation should be available from several North and South Bay major parking facilities and bus terminals.

Our bay cities sit beside open, deep water over which tens of thousands of relaxed commuters could be whisked to and from their jobs, as we have witnessed on three continents. We already have a modern rapid transit system which could and should be expanded many miles from its present terminals. Think what such reductions in vehicle use would do for our air quality! Yes, I am aware of our love affair with the auto, but that can be curbed and people made to accept the change. A mass re-education campaign would require pages and hours of media time. The urban auto should be reserved for business, shopping, distant visits, week-end driving and vacations — or taking the kids to school when bus service or little feet are not adequate. Of course, public transportation must be generously subsidized to save us from

environmental disaster. Those who insist on joining the commuter crawl should pay heavily toward that goal, car-poolers, too if a little less!

The mounting pressures for a 66th Ave. crossing of San Leandro Bay and for ultimately widening Doolittle Drive to six lanes, partly cut out from the new San Leandro Regional Shoreline Park, come from Harbor Bay Isles and the new industrial park being developed between housing and bayshore. Doolittle Pond, an essential waterbird habitat, and Damon marsh on the opposite shore would be virtually destroyed. Little did our legislators dream of this back in 1939 when they declared all of San Leandro Bay to be a State Wildlife Refuge.

We urge you to express your views on this subject and the future of Eastbay Transportation to Congressmen "Pete" Stark, to your state legislators, county supervisors, and city council members. Without new vision and bold action more precious open space will be replaced by concrete ribbons and crawling, belching vehicles.

### MONO BASIN SCENIC AREA

Early this year the Inyo National Forest will be soliciting participation in the development of a plan for the 57,000 acre Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. Issues will be roads, campgrounds, trails, interpretive facilities, hunting, grazing and off-road vehicle use. The challenge is to provide for development and use while preserving the natural and ecological integrity of the lands which surround Mono Lake. A January meeting at Lee Vining will be followed, if there is interest, by meetings in San Francisco, Sacramento and Los Angeles. To assure that these meetings take place, please write the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, PO Box 10, Lee Vining, CA 93541. Ask to be placed on the

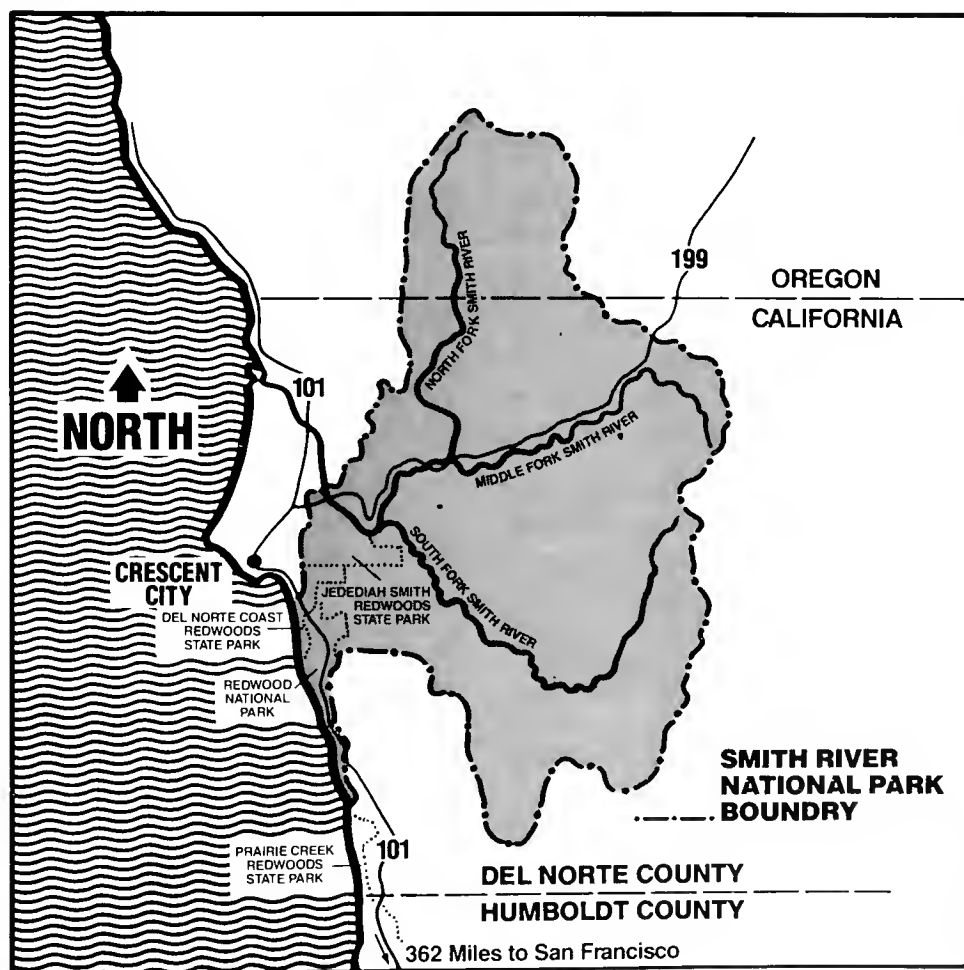
mailing list and that a public meeting be held in your area. You can have influence in deciding the future of the Mono Basin.

## SMITH RIVER NATIONAL PARK?

The spectacular Smith River, located in northwestern California and southern Oregon, is the only major undammed river in California. To preserve the unique combination of spectacular scenery, species diversity and recreational opportunities offered by the river and its watershed lands, environmentalists, sparked by the Save-the-Redwoods League, are proposing a Smith River National Park.

National Park Service Director, William Penn Mott, Jr., has requested nominations for a wild River National Park. Letters of support for Smith River are needed at this time. Local opposition has mounted a letter writing campaign against this proposal. You can help support the nomination by writing to the Director at the National Park Service, US Dept. of Interior, Washington, DC 20242.

The present one-half mile strip of protection afforded by the Smith River's Wild and Scenic River status is not enough. Forest Service logging plans threaten the virgin Redwood and Douglas fir forests. The planned clear cutting will have devastating impact and



residual effects of decreased water quality and species habitat destruction. National Park designation will protect and preserve this river basin, already 75% publicly owned. Please write a short letter today. Please send a copy to the Save-the-Redwoods League, 114 Sansome St., San Francisco, CA 94104.

## BACK YARD BIRDER

I'm not proud of it, but I have been a bit of a snob in regard to my birdwatching. Proclaiming that I bird for the sheer pleasure it gives me turns out to be a white lie. When someone would ask how many birds on my life list, I'd answer that I wasn't sure. This was true since I didn't have a list, per se, but merely marked my field guide with dates and places. Hence, I was not a lister and I presumed that those who were listers were snobs, not I. In truth, I've discovered I'm a closet lister.

It is true that birding is enjoyed for different reasons, but identifying species is the main reason we all get involved. Each of us can probably recall the first bird we simply had to identify. For me, it was the Cedar Waxwing. It became as addictive as eating peanuts as I acquired a good field guide, decent binoculars and took classes. Thanks to years of accumulated knowledge, we amateurs could probably teach a thing or two to ornithologists of 150 years ago.

I thought I was among those who bird for fun. But it makes sense that the better you play the game, i.e. try to become as adept and as experienced as possible at bird identification, the more fulfilled you will be intellectually and spiritually. However, I refuse to become a humorless type of "professional" birder, who discusses bird identification problems for long periods of time with a perfectly straight face.

Listing is a competitive aspect of birding. You can compete against yourself or others in finding the greatest number of species on a given day/year or in a given place. The Christmas Count is an example of listing in a specific locale on a specific day. It is carefully planned with strict guidelines. Each local census is restricted to a circle with a 15 mile diameter which may not overlap another circle. Numbers of individual birds as well as species are recorded. Habitats, weather conditions and other specifics are noted. Having taken part in the Christmas Count for years, I led a group in our area in 1984 and 1985. I became caught up in the challenge of the hunt and in making comparisons to past years. The changes in bird populations and the frustration of missing common birds adds to the excitement. Every year there's the thrill of finding a bird new to your area.

If listing appeals to you, you can keep many different lists concurrently: U. S. Life List, California Life List, County List(s), Yard List, Monthly Lists, Season Lists, Year List, etc. Make up some of your own!

To give you a point of reference, something to set your sights on, here are some listing records as noted in the 1981 (October) *Supplement to BIRDING*, a bimonthly publication put out by the American Birding Association (ABA):

— Stuart Stokes of Australia has seen more species of birds than anyone ever: 6,150, or about 70% of living bird species in the world.

— Paul Sykes of Florida has seen more species of birds in North America than anyone ever: 733, or about 89% of all species for which there's a valid record.

— Kenn Kaufman broke the "Big Year" record in 1973, seeing 671 species in North America between January 1 and December 31. He was just out of high school and spent less than \$1000, traveling 69,000 miles by



using his thumb.

My New Year's resolution: I who cannot go to the store without a list, will become a full-fledged lister. It may take some time, but it should be fun.

— MEG PAULETICH

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

We maintain an always-full hummingbird feeder and with it enjoy the year-round company of several Anna's Hummingbirds. It is one of those inverted reservoirs with a single tube outlet at its bottom. The little Anna's insert their beaks and drink long and deep as they hover seemingly motionless at the tip of the tube.

Recently a rading finch has found it can dive at the tube, scoop up a drop or so of liquid and scramble back up to a fencepost perch before losing altitude. Over a period of about two weeks it has modified its flight so it can almost hover at the tube tip like the Anna's. We are wondering if the behavior on the part of the finch has been reported by any other bird watchers.

— Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Coombs, Jr.

## HELP WITH RAPTORS

The Raptor Migration Observatory of the Golden Gate National Recreational Area is a group of hawkwatchers, bird banders and biologists committed to studying the movement of raptors through the Marin Headlands each fall. In the spring of 1986 it will begin censusing and banding Red-tailed Hawks in Marin and San Francisco Counties. If you know of any active or past Red-tail nests in these areas, please write or phone Allen Fish, Raptor Migration Observatory, GGNRA, Bldg. 201, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123 or (415) 331-5246.

## NEW IN THE GGAS LIBRARY

*Green Inheritance* by Anthony Huxley. Anchor Press Doubleday: Garden City, New York, 1985. \$19.95.

The stated aim of this book is to "show, before it's too late, just how rewarding our green inheritance is to mankind — to demonstrate the wonder and worth of plants, and their great potential, to explain why they cannot take any more punishment, and to point out how those that remain can be saved. And indeed, we must save them, because each plant that becomes extinct represents a loss to ourselves." Published as part of the international campaign by the World Wildlife Fund and the International Union for Conservation of Nature to protect and conserve our plant heritage, *Green Inheritance* seeks to inform us of the vast wealth of variety and usefulness of plants and the problems we have created for ourselves and Planet Earth through past and current agricultural and development practices. More than just another doomsday book, however, *Green Inheritance* imparts a wealth of knowledge about the plant kingdom: how crop plants evolved to what they are today, how plants native to one area of the world spread to other places, how we use plants in many aspects of daily life at all levels of development, and so on. Dr. Huxley also offers possible solutions to some of the threats to the plant communities of the world. He ends the book on a very optimistic note: "It is surely possible for us now to strike a balance (between comfort and gain for ourselves and the need to preserve for future generations something of the natural world we know today). Technologically we have the means."

— JON ZABLACKIS

BIRD SEED SALE ORDER  
FORM AT PAGE 27

## BIRDING CLASSES IN ALBANY

GGAS board member Chris Swarth will be giving a class, "Ecology of Bay Area Birds", at the Albany Adult School on four Thursday evenings from 7-9, starting February 4 at McGregor School. The fee is \$29. Phone 526-6811.

## BIRDING CLASS AT DVC

An evening class, "Birds of the San Francisco Bay Area" at Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, (415) 685-1230, will be given by Chris Swarth. The class will meet Thursday evenings from 7-10 beginning Feb. 27, with field trips scheduled Saturday mornings from 8-11. (This information is changed from what Chris knew when he left on a trip to Africa. There may be changes so please check with the college or GGAS office).

## FREMONT ADULT SCHOOL CLASS

Ohlone and GGAS member Alice Hoch again offers, through the Fremont Adult School, a birding class to start Feb. 25 and ending April 8. It meets Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 12:30 (there will be no class Mar. 25). Registration is at the first class session in Room 2 at the adult School, 4700 Calaveras Ave., Fremont. Bring binoculars and be prepared for the field that morning. For more information call the school 791-5841 or instructor 657-0475.

## ART AND POLITICS

March 22-23 the Friends of the River will present its second annual conference. Held on the Sacramento City College campus at 3835 Freeport Blvd., Sacramento, the art of river running and

the politics of keeping the rivers flowing free will be discussed. For information phone FOR at (916) 442-3155.

## KLAMATH — TULE LAKE TRIP

Dr. Stephen F. Bailey will lead a birding trip to the Klamath Basin wildlife reservation March 7-10. Scheduled to catch the peak of the spring migration of geese, this trip will feature hundreds of thousands of waterfowl. Two full and two half-days (Friday to Monday) will cover Tule Lake and Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuges, Lava Beds National Monument and the Bear Valley flyout of Bald Eagles. Weather permitting, we will make a side trip to Crater Lake and Fort Klamath to look for Rosy Finch and Great Gray Owl. The group will be limited to 15 people. For information call Steve at 731-0847 (evening) or 750-7177 (day).

## SATURDAY SEMINAR ON OWLS

On Saturday, March 1, Jon Winter will give a full-day seminar at the Marin Civic Center, San Rafael, covering the vocalizations, behavior and adaptations of North American owls, with emphasis on identification. He will provide invaluable "how-to" owling tips and techniques, gained from many seasons of owl study.

Jon is one of North America's premier experts on owls and is currently assembling materials and recordings for a book, *Owls of North America: a Field Guide to Songs and Calls*, sponsored by the American Birding Association and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

Presented by Pacific Adventures, all the profits will be donated to *American Birds*. For information call (707) 795-8492. To make reservations send \$17.50 per person with a stamped, self addressed envelope to Kurt Campbell,

PO Box 268, Cotati, CA 94928. Please make checks payable to Pacific Adventures.

## 1986 EXTENDED FIELD TRIPS

Chris Carpenter, GGAS Extended Field Trips Coordinator, announces the trip schedule for this year. Full details on each trip may be obtained from the GGAS office. Further details will be published in The Gull next month. All prices include airfare from San Francisco, all lodging, meals and transportation (except that meals are not included in any US tour.)

### **Point Pelee and Kirtland's Warbler**

May 10 — May 17  
approximate cost \$1175.

### **Death Valley Weekend**

May 23 — May 26  
approximate cost \$200.

### **Kenya (with Terry Stevenson)**

Oct. 31 — Nov. 22  
approximate cost \$4300.

## GGAS TRIP TO SOUTHERN MEXICO

The November 1985 trip to Southern Mexico, Chris Carpenter reports, was an unqualified success. Aided by co-leaders Lina Prairie and Steve Howell, the group saw over 430 species of birds. Highlights included a King Vulture soaring directly above the group for twenty minutes over the magnificent Mayan ruins at Palenque, watching an Aplamado Falcon snatch dragon flies on the wing at dusk, a flock of 200 feeding White-fronted Parrots, singing Ocellated Thrasher at Monte Alban, a spectacular male Garnet-throated Hummingbird (Steve's only lifer on the trip) hovering almost too close for binoculars, Rose-bellied Bunting, Giant Wren, Great Swallow-tailed Swift, Gray-necked Wood-Rail, Blue-naped Chlorophonia, Slender Sheartail, Black-

headed Trogon and Rufous-tailed Jacamar.

## ASILOMAR CONFERENCE 1986 Western Regional —

Plan to attend the biennial regional conference at beautiful Asilomar March 22-25. And get your reservations in early for choice accommodations. Old timers rave about past meetings — and this one will give westerners a chance to get acquainted with Peter Berle, new national president. Wetlands and old growth forests are featured topics. Field trips include a pelagic trip and opportunities to visit Hastings Reservation and UC Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Facility. A reception and tour of the Monterey Bay Aquarium is planned Sunday evenings for all conferees. Call the GGAS office if you did not receive an announcement and reservation form.

## SONOMA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PLANNED

The Madrone Audubon Society and the Redwood Region Ornithological Society are planning a *Breeding Bird Atlas of Sonoma County*. Avid birders who are willing to assume responsibility for censusing the breeding birds in a grid area are needed. The effort will begin April 1 and will involve four or five trips to the designated area to record data during the breeding season (April through June). If you are able to help, call or write to the committee chairman, Betty Burrige, (707) 527-0225, 963 Crest Dr., Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

## A PRESIDENTIAL THANKS

I am reminded almost every day that this Society cannot function without the incredible support it gets from its volunteers, members and otherwise. So right now I would like to recognize and thank some of those who have really given so much of their time and effort. First of all, our latest Christmas Counts were great successes, and loads of fun. They would not have taken place without tremendous efforts by Jeff Greenhouse, Nancy Conzett and Helen Green in Oakland, and Dan Murphy and Alan Hopkins in S.F. Thanks to you all. Secondly, the Golden Gate Audubon Society has just this year, begun an extended field trip program. We had two such trips in 1985, to Mexico and to Death Valley, both of which were fantastically successful with glowing reports from participants. This whole effort is the result of one man, Chris Carpenter. We thank him, most sincerely, and hope for many more successful trips to come.

I've thanked just a few of those who deserve it. I'd also like to thank here my entire Board and all you who have also contributed so much. I would also like to encourage all of you who have the time to try it yourself. GGAS is made up of a great bunch of people, come out and meet us and help us in our efforts. Call our staffperson Barbara Rivenes at 843-2222 for more information.

— ARTHUR FEINSTEIN

## THE COOPER SOCIETY

The featured speaker at the February meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society will be Bob Boekelheide, Point Reyes Bird Observatory Staff Biologist.

The meeting will be at UC Berkeley, Life Sciences Bldg., Room 2503, Monday, Feb. 3 at 8 p.m. preceded by a business session at 7:45. Everyone interested in birds is invited.

## NEWS FROM THE RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch  
Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, Ca., (415)  
383-1644

Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature  
Education under joint sponsorship of Golden Gate,  
Madrone, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies  
Flora MacLise, Chairman

Audubon Canyon Ranch received two extremely generous gifts of land at the end of 1985. The board has accepted with great appreciation a 71 acre site of virgin land on Tomales Bay's Tom's Point from Meg Hull. This greatly enhances the ranch's Tomales Bay holdings. This land of native grasses and small ponds will be preserved in its natural state. It will be open for environmental study, but only through special permission from ranch headquarters.

The boards is happy to announce that David Bouverie has chosen to give ACR the entire remaining undivided interest in the 364 upper acres of his property which make up the Bouverie Audubon preserve. He has been giving this acreage to the ranch gradually over the past five years. The completion of this generous gift preserves a beautiful example of California valley habitats, including grassland, chapparal, redwood forest and oak woodland.

March first ACR begins its 25th year as a wildlife sanctuary. On April 6, 1961 the Marin Audubon Board decided to buy the first acres in what today is Picher Canyon. Special events during the coming year will celebrate this silver anniversary.

It is time to fill your calendar with springtime events at ACR's three properties:

### At Cypress Grove

March 15 Ray Peterson and John Keeley will lead a new trails hike including the recently finished Livermore Marsh trail.



**At Bolinas**

Feb. 15 & 16 Connie Calhoun will give another of her mushroom classes. Call Marin Discoveries (927-0410) for more information.

Feb. 22 The annual Friends Day is again offering a free lunch and the opportunity to work up an appetite for it. Ray Peterson promises jobs for everyone, no matter what your age or talent.

March 8 Want to learn about pruning your trees and vines? Paul Vossen, Sonoma Co. Farm Advisor, will give a one day class.

March 27-29 John Kipping and Pay Peterson will hold a Family Easter Class with hikes, lots of learning and fun, too.

**At Bouverie Preserve**

Feb. 22

March 29

April 26 Community Hike Days. Reservations are required by Wednesday preceding each Saturday hike.

For information about Bouverie phone (707) 938-4554 and about Cypress Grove or Bolinas, unless otherwise noted, phone (415) 383-1644.

## GIFTS and BEQUESTS

**FOR GGAS****In Memory of**

Marjorie Harris

Matthias Hugo

Thomas C. Mico

Douglas Meszaros

Alice Snyder

**GIFT of**

Mike & Sally Parmeter

Marguerite & John Dorsey

Patricia McGannon

Jessica & Michael Smith

Roschelle & William Weiman

Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union 38

Mimi Paul

Jeanne Rathjens

James & Annabel Kay

Enid Merle Emerson

Reid D. Bennett

Marjorie Saulsberry

Anne MacPherson

Jean & Lesley Forden

Peter Watkins

**FOR GGAS LIBRARY****In Memory of**

Marjorie Harris

**FOR AUDUBON CANYON RANCH****in Memory of**

Col. Carl Driggers

**FOR GGAS****FOR GGAS LIBRARY**

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1550 Shattuck Ave., #204, Berkeley, CA 94709. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in The Gull as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

## **MONO LAKE BENEFIT: FINE WINES**

Two \$1000 Wine Cellars are the prizes in a raffle March 21 by the Mono Lake Committee. Only 500 tickets will be sold at \$50 per ticket — tax deductible as a contribution towards saving Mono Lake. The odds are 1 in 250!

Gerald Asher, wine editor of *Gourmet Magazine*, has selected a superb group of 1982 Bordeaux and Burgundies including a magnum of Chateau Lafite Rothschild for this offering. Herbert Cerwin, of Cerwin & Peck, consultants, has donated some 1950 and 1960 rare and hard to find Cabernet Sauvignons.

Information and tickets are available from Ms. Grace de Laet, Mono Lake Committee, 37 Calhoun Terrace, San Francisco, CA 94133.

## **GALAPAGOS, PERU, AMAZON**

Benefit for Mono Lake: June 24-July 12. For brochure on this exciting adventure to "Darwin's Islands" and more, call M. Bennett at 526-1260. Reservation deadline is Feb. 20.

## **ELEPHANT SEALS AT ANO NUEVO**

Mono Lake Comm. is sponsoring bus trips to Ano Nuevo Feb. 10 and 28 from N. Berkeley BART station. For reservations, call 526-1260. See Jan. GULL for details.

## **GGAS SPRING/SUMMER SEED SALE**

### **— A Mono Lake Fund Raiser**

Once again GGAS is holding a seed sale. While many of our wintering birds are already gone, plenty remain and, of course, our summering birds will have healthy appetites, as will their young. So do take advantage of the 1986 Spring Bird Seed Sale.

This sale will take on added meaning because the GGAS board has designated that funds raised in excess of the budget amount be used to sup-

port National Audubon's Mono Lake lawsuit. The suit continues to show significant, encouraging signs. Funds for this litigation, however, are reaching perilously low levels.

## **VOLKMAN WILD BIRD SEED**

A premium mix with no low-cost fillers the birds will flick aside. Composed of white and red millet and sudan grass screenings.

## **GGAS SPECIAL SEED MIX**

Top quality mix specially blended for Bay Area birds. Composed of red and white millet. Black oil sunflower seed, milo and rape seed. This mix is superior to the commercial grade wild bird seed mix sold in the area and an excellent value for the money.

## **BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED**

This seed is found preferred by birds two to one over the striped variety. High in oil content and nutritive value, it appeals to chickadees and nuthatches, titmice and jays, finches and others. This is the best all-around seed for attracting birds.

## **NIGER (Thistle Seed)**

Imported from India, this seed is 98% pure. Minute and rich in oil, it is unappealing to larger birds and squirrels. It will not sprout in your yard.

## **ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS**

Seed orders will be available for pick-up at a distribution point in San Francisco or Berkeley on March 15. You must send your order form and prepayment to reach GGAS on or before March 5. Confirmation of your order and location of the distribution point will be mailed to you by March 10. Cancellation of orders cannot be accepted after March 5.

Send your order form (with tax computed, please), your check payable to GGAS, and a self addressed, stamped envelope to BIRD SEED, GGAS, Room 204, 1550 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, CA 94709.

## GGAS BIRD SEED SALE

Here is your chance to order your supply of seed for the season. Persons ordering seed will be notified by mail of the pick-up point address before March 10.

ORDER AND PRE-PAY BY MARCH 5  
PICK UP ON SATURDAY, MARCH 15

**VOLKMAN WILD BIRD SEED** — Premium mix composed of white and red millet and sudan grass screenings.

20 lbs. \$ 8.75

50 lbs. 18.50

**GGAS SPECIAL WILD BIRD SEED MIX** — Top quality mix specially blended for Bay Area birds composed of white and red millet, black oil sunflower seed, milo and rape seed.

20 lbs. \$ 6.40

50 lbs. 12.30

**BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED** — High in oil content and nutritive value, but smaller than the striped variety.

10 lbs. \$ 8.25

25 lbs. 20.50

**NIGER (THISTLE SEED)** — This minute seed is rich in nourishing oil and will attract goldfinches, but not larger birds or squirrels, nor will it sprout in your yard. 5 lbs. \$ 8.50

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (DAY) \_\_\_\_\_ (EVENING) \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the location at which you prefer to pick up your order:

( ) San Francisco ( ) Berkeley

ITEM	WEIGHT	QUANTITY	COST	TOTAL
VOLKMAN WILD BIRD SEED	20 lbs.		8.75	
	50 lbs.		18.50	
GGAS SPECIAL WILD BIRD SEED	20 lbs.		6.40	
	50 lbs.		12.30	
BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED	10 lbs.		8.25	
	25 lbs.		20.50	
NIGER (THISTLE SEED)	5 lbs.		8.50	
Field Guide to the Birds of North America (Nat. Geographic)			\$16.95	
ADD 6.5% TAX				
CONTRIBUTION TO GGAS				
TOTAL				

BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR CHECK,  
AND STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE

## — SECOND CLASS MATTER



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THE GULL

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### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) 843-2211

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

**The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.**